

EXHIBIT 6
DATE 2/18/11
HB 586

Northern Plains Resource Council
Testimony on HB 586
February 18, 2011

Beth Kaeding
2/18/2011

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Beth Kaeding and I live in Bozeman. I am the past chair of Northern Plains Resource Council, a grassroots conservation and family agriculture organization that organizes Montana citizens to protect our water quality, family farms and ranches, and rural economies. I am here today on behalf of our members.

Northern Plains Resource Council enthusiastically supports HB 586 and thanks Representative Court for bringing it forward for your consideration. HB 586 is about disclosure. HB 586 is about transparency. HB 586 is about protecting Montana's clean water. HB 586 is about private property rights. HB 586 is about Montanans' right to know.

The public has the right to know what chemicals companies – which are fracking for **their** profit – are putting into **our** groundwater aquifers. Disclosure of what these chemicals are brings transparency to an extractive process for private, corporate profit, and transparency will build trust. Secrecy results in suspicion, skepticism, and doubt. WHY won't these companies tell the public what they are putting into the ground and into our water? Without knowing, we have to assume that these chemicals may be toxic, that these chemicals could harm our health, and that these companies want to get their profit and get out leaving us, the landowners and the tax payers, once again suffering the consequences of corporate greed. For more than a century, Montanans have paid the price while corporations and their high-paid executives take our resources and leave us with their waste and pollution. All Northern Plains has ever asked is that developers, extractors, and corporations be "Good Neighbors," follow "the Code of the West," and to "Do It Right."

HB 586 is about disclosure. HB 586 is about transparency. HB 586 is about protecting Montana's clean water. HB 586 is about private property rights. HB 586 is about Montanans' right to know.

Northern Plains urges this Committee to vote "Yes" on HB 586.